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Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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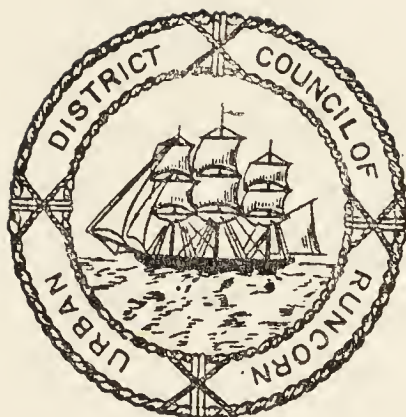
Year ending 31st December, 1946

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URBAN DISTRICT AUTHORITY OF RUNCORN

ANNUAL REPORT

1946

BY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts

Medical Superintendent Dutton Isolation Hospital

Officials of the Public Health Department :

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent, Dutton Isolation Hospital :
DR. E. N. HILLMAN GRAY (L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.)

Sanitary Inspectors :

**Senior :* MR. ALLEN DALE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Foods.

**Additional :* MR. ALBERT DUCKWORTH, M.S.I.A., (Cert., L'pool) Meat and Foods.

Additional : MR. JOHN GREENAN, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Foods.

(**Also appointed Shops Inspector.*)

Members of the Urban District Council of Runcorn

Chairman of the Council (1st January, 1946 to 15th April, 1946) :

COUNCILLOR J. TILDSLEY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council (1st January, 1946, to 15th April, 1946) :

COUNCILLOR A. G. JEACOCK

Chairman of the Council (15th April, 1946, to 31st December, 1946) :

COUNCILLOR J. TILDSLEY, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council (15th April, 1946, to 31st December, 1946) :

COUNCILLOR A. G. JEACOCK

COUNCILLOR T. ASHLEY, J.P. (*Chairman of the Finance Committee*)

„ C. E. BROOKER, J.P., C.C. (*Chairman, Baths, Market and Cemetery Committee*)

„ L. CAULFIELD

„ T. CLARE (*Chairman, Library Committee*)

„ C. EVANS (*Chairman of the Public Health Committee*)

COUNTY ALDERMAN W. GITTENS, J.P.

COUNCILLOR H. GOODALL (*Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee*)

„ W. GREGORY (*Chairman, Highways & Buildings Committee*)

„ A. GROUNDS

„ S. HAMLETT

„ J. HAYES

„ H. HUGHES

„ T. J. LLOYD

„ C. C. POSNETT, C.C.

„ J. A. ROBERTSON

„ P. SMITH, J.P.

„ W. TAYLOR, M.B.E., J.P.

„ W. J. THOMAS

„ G. F. THORNTON

Officers :

Clerk to the Council : MR. JOHN HOWARD

Engineer and Surveyor : MR. A. B. CUNNINGHAM (M.Inst., M. & Cy.E.)

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INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN.

Gentlemen,

This introduction may be somewhat long, but this is deliberate, so that all concerned may use it for Health Education, reading it in conjunction with the main part of the Report. If assistance in lecturing, etc., is required, I will only be too glad to help in forwarding in any way the important matter of *Health Education*. Extra copies of this Report can be obtained from Messrs. Mackie and Co., Ltd., Guardian Press, Runcorn, on payment, if they are ordered before the end of the year.

The Year 1946, as for the year previous, has been a difficult one for all concerned, but considering the shortage of labour and material in the country, satisfactory progress is being made in "Winning the Peace".

Dirty, overcrowded, insanitary dwellings, especially in dense areas, produce disease ; for the moment we can deal with the first, *i.e.*, Dirt, by personal cleanliness (hot baths, clean clothes, etc.), and cleanliness in the home ; the latter by frequent and thorough "spring cleaning" which has proved to destroy disease germs and so prevent disease. Excellent books to read on "Hygiene" are the St. John, Red Cross, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Official Courses which are arranged by these organisations on this subject.

As regards overcrowded and insanitary dwellings, new houses are required, which *must be a priority* in matters to be dealt with. A short-term policy has been settled, to be followed by a long-term policy and eventually the eradication of dense areas, all fitting into a proper Town Planning Scheme.

The provision of houses (short- and long-term policy) for the larger families has been catered for allowing for the shortage of labour and material, also small flats for old people, but the smaller families (over 500 waiting for houses) will have to wait years for suitable dwellings unless, *e.g.*, Army Huts, further prefabricated houses and caravan sites (properly controlled under Public Health and Town and Country Planning Acts) are provided ; much unnecessary worry which may lead to various diseases, is being caused through lack of proper accommodation.

A Housing Survey of the district was commenced late in 1945; this will be completed as soon as possible.

Speaking generally, the health of the community has been satisfactory, especially considering the aftermath of war (see

especially page 11—12). The latter have not decreased the efforts of all concerned in the essential work required in connection with infectious diseases, Food, Milk, Water, Housing and Health propaganda.

It is noted with the greatest satisfaction that the Government propose to deal by further Acts of Parliament with the many aspects of Public Health ; these will apply, for example, to Housing, Town and Country Planning, Milk Supplies, Water Supplies, Sewage Disposal, Education and further facilities for medical treatment and social security.

The World Health Organisation of the United Nations, when formed and functioning properly, will help to bring to everyone an equal opportunity to obtain physical *and* mental health regardless of nationality, race, or economic status.

The United Nations will require *everyone's* full support through the United Nations Associations, etc.

The various excellent voluntary societies will, as before, be most useful agencies whereby members of the community will be made aware of the contents of these various Acts of Parliament by explaining these to all concerned and also informing citizens of the numerous voluntary societies which have available *now* facilities suitable for *all* tastes.

We must congratulate the National Council of Social Service with their many attached societies, etc., for their excellent voluntary work, and especially the Cheshire Community Council ; in addition, the Arts Council (Council for Encouragement of Music and the Arts (C.E.M.A.)) has, and in the future will have, an important bearing in bringing music and art to the people.

Insufficient attention is given to the prevention of accidents, especially in young persons, which could be avoided by common sense methods.

Voluntary Societies can help in this important matter with suitable lectures and discussion groups at frequent intervals. The C.A.B. (Chester or Warrington) can advise where Specialist Lectures can be obtained.

Community Centres and village halls with playing fields are required as soon as possible so that citizens may join together in search of further healthy mental and physical exercise. Children require playing fields provided through the Education Authority and The National Playing Fields Association assisted by the Central Council for Physical Recreation.

The Carnegie Trust through the Cheshire Rural Community Council (Organising Secretary : Norman Cottam, Esq., Newgate,

Chester), have available grants and loans for Community Centres and village halls, they also assist especially music and drama societies with grants for special advisers, etc.

The Carnegie Trust is only available for Community Centres and village halls in the districts with a population of 5,000 or under. Where the population is over 5,000 the provision of Community Centres and village halls is the responsibility of the Local Education Authority.

The Year 1946 has been a strenuous year and we have had an anxious time in carrying out our duties, the sincere thanks to all concerned, my Council, Officials, Doctors, Nurses, and all Voluntary bodies, is extended to them by me, *for only by team work and co-operation could a satisfactory state of affairs be sustained.* The various voluntary bodies, including the Central Council for Health Education, Arts Council (C.E.M.A.), the W.V.S., W.E.A., B.R.C., St. John Societies and the C.A.B. (Citizens' Advice Bureaux) now available in Warrington and Chester, must be specially mentioned.

The Ministry of Food have directed the attention of all to making use of the most readily available and best foods, in fact, have done much to help us to keep fit. May we continue to learn from our experiences, especially in the choosing of foods available and improving our cooking (with proper flavour) and the inclusion in our daily diet of some uncooked fresh green vegetables, or, if these are cooked we must see that this is carried out properly, otherwise valuable Vitamins will be lost.

A stockpot for soups should be used more extensively.

Fish, for example Herrings, are a valuable food. Fruit Juices as an extra should also be used daily, otherwise a condition of scurvy may occur due to Vitamin C deficiency, *e.g.*, orange juice, tomato, rose hips, and blackcurrant juice have much Vitamin C in them, in some cases under Medical direction, vitamin tablets are necessary where there is a serious deficiency of Vitamins.

Young children must have their daily (pasteurised) milk—liquid or dried, animal fats, *e.g.*, Cod Liver Oil, etc., and fruit juices. Schoolchildren their school meals and extra milk (pasteurised) (which should be suitably flavoured to encourage the use of milk), so as to prevent disease and lay a good foundation for health in the body.

Expectant mothers and certain special sick should have their extra milk (pasteurised), etc.

The following foods, some mentioned above, *i.e.*, Milk, Cheese, Eggs (fresh or dried), Fish (especially herrings), fresh vegetables and fruit, are the *preventive foods*, *i.e.*, those which prevent disease; they *must* be included in the *daily* diet for all, but *especially* for children, adolescents and the special cases already quoted.

Exposure of the Skin to Sunlight (Natural and Artificial), under medical supervision, apart from the tonic effect create valuable vitamins in the body which help to prevent disease.

Diphtheria immunisation proves again and again everywhere its wonderful powers to prevent this deadly disease ; *all children*, preferably between the sixth and ninth month, must be properly immunised, with a further dose in just under five years' time ; this can be obtained free of cost under the Council's Scheme from their own Doctors (at the Surgery or at home), failing this at the Welfare Centre, Day Nursery or School. *Prevention is better than cure.*

Owing to the danger of serious cases of smallpox arriving in this country from abroad, all concerned are advised they should be vaccinated as required by the Act.

It is hoped that more Youth Hostels will become available generally, so allowing walkers and cyclists that necessary exercise and enjoyment in new and beautiful surroundings at very cheap rates. Youth Hostels are one of the many organisations available for all concerned (*e.g.*, Scouts, Guides, etc.). Open-air exercise is cheap and essential to all.

Health Education.—Immunisation, Skin Diseases, Dietetics and Cooking, also Venereal Disease, have all received special attention ; lectures have been given, leaflets, etc., have been circulated to all Voluntary Societies, Youth Organisations, etc. The Central Council for Health Education have been of great assistance in this connection. Education in health matters through voluntary societies, schools, etc., *is most important* : on application to me lectures, films, gramophone records (by a Medical Officer of Health, etc.), can be obtained.

Infestation.—Infestation of children with head lice, which can not only convey infections, but through irritations and sometimes septic conditions, lower the standard of health of the children affected, is being dealt with as efficiently as possible. The use of lethane oil (with hot lysol solution and derbac comb) is strongly recommended as this has been found to be efficacious in the eradication of head lice. Derbac soap with the derbac comb has also been used. All parents and guardians should note this matter now and in the future.

Scabies.—The Scheme which was put into operation during the year 1942 in accordance with the Ministry of Health Scabies Order, is being carried out via General Practitioners, failing this, at the Warrington Cleansing Centre on application to me ; the treatment consists of bathing and the application of benzyl benzoate, with the necessary washing, disinfection, ironing of blankets, etc. During the year the incidence of scabies notified has been slight.

Water Supply.—The sufficiency and quality of the water supply to the town has been satisfactory ; frequent tests are made during the year by the Deputy County Analyst. The supply is constant and all dwelling houses have a main supply available to them.

Disposal of Sewage.—Some years ago you appointed a Sub-Committee to deal further with this matter, aided by the Surveyor and other experts. The Ministry of Health are aware of any action which it is proposed to take. This matter should be dealt with *as soon as possible*.

Abattoir.—The slaughtering of animals in a Central Abattoir having the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, will, it is hoped soon, be a policy decision of the Ministries concerned.

Maternity Home.—The Cheshire County Council has under consideration the provision of a Maternity Home to serve the Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts. The shortage of staff may delay the project, but it should be undertaken as soon as possible.

The Cheshire County Maternity and Child Welfare Committee make arrangements as required through the Welfare Centres for mothers to have their confinements in various Maternity Hospitals (*i.e.*, West Park and Clatterbridge) and Homes (*e.g.*, Chester Maternity Home, etc.), also :—

Ashton-under-Lyne District Infirmary.
 Chester Maternity Home.
 Cleveland House, Wolverhampton.
 Crewe Maternity Home.
 The Garth, Neston.
 Glossop Maternity Home.
 Hope Hospital, Pendleton.
 Liverpool Maternity Hospital.
 Longton Cottage Hospital.
 St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.
 Sale War Memorial Hospital.
 Salvation Army Home, Liverpool.
 Southfields, Bowdon.
 Warrington Borough (Victoria Park).
 Widnes Maternity Home.

Dutton Isolation Hospital.—Dutton Isolation Hospital is still being used as the combined hospital for my Urban and Rural Districts. The staff has been under establishment of nurses for some time ; those available have given efficient service.

In connection with **Child Welfare**, in addition to the official Centres, etc., available for all concerned, there are many repre-

sentative Voluntary Organisations concerned with this very important subject, for further information on this subject enquiries should be made at the Public Health Department, or the Citizens' Advice Bureau (Warrington or Chester).

Special mention must be made of the information available from the Marriage Guidance Council to combat ignorance in this important subject. At the moment information can be obtained at Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics, Day Nurseries, Welfare Centres, etc.

Further **Medical and Veterinary Research** (in addition, research on the virus diseases in plants, etc.), may solve the question of the cause and spread of the diseases caused by virus, especially the serious disease Anterior Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis).

The new and wonderful Insecticides D.D.T. and "666" will help to wipe out insects, especially those which carry disease, *e.g.*, flies, have been found to carry various serious diseases, every means should be taken to destroy these, *e.g.*, *proper disposal of refuse*, cool flyproof larders, fly papers, D.D.T. sprays, etc.

Experiments are being made by the Ministry of Health to produce efficient protective serum against the sometimes deadly diseases of children—Measles and Whooping Cough. Eventually these diseases should not occur.

Intensive research is being carried out by the Ministry of Health to ascertain whether German Measles (Rubella) occurring in pregnant women may cause certain malformations, etc., in the new-born ; in addition the danger of Acute Hæmolytic Disease in the new-born.

The co-operation and help of all concerned in the Public Health Department has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties, with special mention to Mr. A. Dale (Senior Sanitary Inspector), Mr. A. Duckworth (Sanitary Inspector), Mr. J. Greenan (Sanitary Inspector), and Mr. A. Sproston, Public Health Department (clerical duties).

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

(a)	Area (in acres)	....	....	....	....	2,904
(b)	Estimated Population (mid-1946)	....	....	....	....	22,940
(c)	Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1946) according to the Rate Books	....	....	....	....	6,388
(d)	Rateable Value of the District	....	....	....	....	£196,091
(e)	Sum represented by one penny rate (approx.)	....	....	....	....	£775
(f)	Density of Population. Number of Persons per acre (estimated population mid-1946)	....	....	....	....	7.8
(g)	Average number of persons per inhabited house (estimated population mid-1946)	....	....	....	....	3.4

Social Conditions

Runcorn is distinctly urban in character, situated on the south bank of the estuary of the River Mersey. The ground rises from the river, the highest point being at Runcorn Hill, 256 feet above sea-level.

The town is build on red sandstone with pockets of boulder clay.

Chemical industries and tanneries absorb the bulk of the working population of the town. Many young people are engaged in cable works and jam works situated in the Rural District, while persons of all ages are employed on the river and canals.

Vital Statistics

				<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	....	....	....	462	217	245
Illegitimate	....	....	....	17	10	7
				479	227	252

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 20.88.

Live births born outside Runcorn Urban District but belonging to the Runcorn Urban District (229)—9.9 per 1,000 resident population.

					<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
STILL BIRTHS	19	11	8

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) : 38.15.

DEATHS	304	177	127
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Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 13.25.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

				<i>Rate per 1,000</i>
				<i>(live and still) births</i>
				<i>Deaths</i>
No. 29 Puerperal sepsis	....	....	nil	nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes			nil	nil
TOTAL				nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age

All infants per 1,000 births (20 deaths)	....	....	41.75
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live births (18 deaths)	....		38.96
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	....		117
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	....	....	39
Measles (all ages)	....	....	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	....		—
Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)			8

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment

The causes of the highest mortality were :—

Heart Disease	....	107
Cancer	....	39

Heart Disease was prevalent in persons over 65 years of age, some cases may have been due to the effects of *e.g.*, rheumatism in childhood, this is about to be further investigated under instructions from the Ministry of Health.

For further remarks on Cancer see page 30 (*i.e.*, further research, early diagnosis and treatment, etc.).

A Summary of deaths of infants under 1 year of age is as follows :—

Broncho-pneumonia	....	....	4 cases (one case was treated in hospital)
Gastro-enteritis	....	....	4 cases (3 cases treated in hospital)
Prematurity	....	....	3 cases (one case in hospital)
Marasmus with infantile diarrhœa			3 cases (one case treated in hospital)
Intercranial Hæmorrhage	....		1 case (treated in hospital)
Neo-natal cerebral hæmorrhage			1 case
Asphyxia due to suffocation	....		2 cases (inquest held)
Convulsions	....	....	1 case.
Congenital malformation of heart			1 case
TOTAL 20 deaths :			

Treatment in a general hospital or an infectious disease hospital is available for all such cases ; if any Doctor decides that treatment will benefit and the patient is fit to be moved. Premature births are specially treated in hospital or nursing homes.

More volunteers are urgently required for the County Council "Home Help Scheme" ; helpers are paid through the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, 24, Nicholas Street, Chester.

There were 163 deaths of persons over 65 years of age.

					<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
From 65-69	Number of Deaths	....	....		17	11	28
" 70-79	" " "	....	....		50	44	94
" 80-89	" " "	....	....		20	18	38
" 90-99	" " "	....	....		3	—	3
" 100	" " "	....	....		—	—	—

Causes of Sickness or Invalidity

There have been no cases of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy in this area during the year.

Table of Comparative Rates

<i>Year</i>	<i>Estimated Mid-year Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>
1941	22,830	18.8	12.08	64.9
1942	22,730	17.9	22.2	56.2
1943	22,450	17.66	13.22	53.24
1944	21,840	20.6	13.2	65.7
1945	21,690	19.2	13.42	66.98
1946	22,940	20.88	13.25	41.75

Inquests were held regarding 19 deaths, 6 of which were inward transfers.

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area

1. Public Health Officers

The names and qualifications, districts, address, telephone, are given at the beginning of the Report.

2. Facilities

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies is established in Runcorn. The Institute can supply serum for cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Anthrax, etc., in emergency.

As from the 27th August, 1946, the undermentioned Laboratories were available to Doctors practising in the district, but only those examinations carried out in the interests of Public Health, *i.e.*, investigations, etc., of infectious diseases, will be a charge on my Council.

Doctors are at liberty to have examinations carried out at the most suitable laboratory, and should make their own arrangements direct with the Laboratory (material, etc.).

A Schedule of Unit Charges and examinations was forwarded to each Doctor practising in the District (with details of the Scheme).

- (1) Warrington Central Laboratory,
(Dr. W. Evans), Legh Street, Warrington.
(Tel. No.: Warrington 1881.)
- (2) Chester Royal Infirmary,
(Professor Grace), Chester.
(Tel. No.: Chester 2842.)
- (3) Liverpool City Laboratory,
(Professor Robinson).
(Tel. No.: Royal 3636.)

It is hoped that this extended service will give all concerned further facilities in the investigation of Infectious Disease and disease generally (*e.g.*, pathological overhauls).

Some Food for examination and water supplies are sent for Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological examinations to the Deputy County Analyst.

Milk is sent to the County Public Health Laboratory for examination.

V.D. specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

(b) Ambulance Facilities

There are three ambulances in the town available for the public, to which my Council pay an annual retaining fee.

This service will be further extended under the new National Health Act.

(c) Home Nursing

Runcorn District Nursing Association—3 nurses and 1 relief nurse.

Number of midwives practising in the district—5.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

Child Welfare, etc., are under the direct control of the County Council,

School Clinics—29, High Street, Runcorn	(Welfare Centre)
Tuesday a.m.; Monday, Thursday, Friday (p.m.)	„ „
Infant Welfare Centre—Wednesday a.m. and p.m.	„ „
Ante-natal Clinic—Thursday a.m.	„ „
Post-natal Clinic—4th Thursday each month (p.m.)	„ „
Orthopædic Clinic—Tuesday and Friday (a.m.)	„ „
Tuberculosis Dispensary Memorial Hospital, Runcorn—Thursdays (a.m. and p.m.)	

(e) **War Nursery, Okell Street, Runcorn**

Under direct control of the County Council.

Open each day 8 a.m. (except Sundays).

(f) **Venereal Disease Clinics** (*free and confidential*) serving the district :—

LIVERPOOL ROYAL INFIRMARY

Males :	Monday, Wednesday & Friday	10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
		5.0 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Tuesday	10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
	Thursday	5.0 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Females :	Tuesday	4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.
	Thursday	12 noon to 1 p.m.

WARRINGTON INFIRMARY

Males and Females :	Monday	11.0 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Males :	Thursday	5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.
Females :	Thursday	4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

WARRINGTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

Males and Females :	Friday	12 noon to 2 p.m.
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CHESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY

Males :	Wednesday	5.0 p.m. to 7.0 p.m.
	Saturday	12.0 noon to 2.0 p.m.
Females :	Monday and Thursday	5.0 p.m. to 7.0 p.m.

(g) **Hospitals**

(a) The RUNCORN VICTORIA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL is a Voluntary Hospital with 32 beds staffed by the local Medical Practitioners and Visiting Consulting Surgeons from Liverpool.

It is primarily for the reception of surgical and accident cases.

(b) SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.—The Council has an arrangement with Warrington Corporation for the accommodation of Smallpox cases,

(c) RUNCORN ISOLATION HOSPITAL is at present closed, the cases being accommodated in the Runcorn Rural Isolation Hospital at Dutton.

(d) PUERPERAL CASES are provided for by the County Council at Clatterbridge General Hospital, etc.

(e) PUBLIC ASSISTANCE HOSPITAL is situated at Dutton.

(h) **Voluntary Hospitals** receiving patients from this area:—

Manchester Royal Infirmary.
 Chester Royal Infirmary.
 Liverpool Royal Infirmary.
 Liverpool Southern Hospital.
 Liverpool Northern Hospital.
 Liverpool Ear and Throat Hospital.
 Victoria Memorial Hospital, Runcorn.
 Warrington Infirmary.
 Northwich Infirmary.
 Altrincham General Hospital.
 Manchester Royal Eye Hospital.
 Liverpool Radium Institute.

General

The Government Report on Hospitals in the North Western Area and their recommendations for the future has been received by my Council ; this matter will probably be brought up again in 1947 when the Government's White Paper on the proposed State Medical Service is received, which will involve recommendations as to the treatment of patients locally and in hospitals, consultant, specialist, and new laboratory services, ambulance services, etc.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances

1. (i) **WATER.** The water supply consists of a mixture of soft water from Lake Vyrnwy and hard Runcorn Well Water.

Frequent tests are made of the water by the Council, and during the year six tests of both Vyrnwy and mixed water were made, and twenty tests of Well water (which is under constant supervision).

The Report of the Analyst is : "That the water generally is free from organic pollution and is suitable for drinking purposes."

(ii) Ministry of Health Circular 13/47 requires the following information regarding water supplies in the area,

- (i) Whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory.
- (a) In quality Yes
- (b) In quantity Yes
- (ii) Where there is a piped supply whether bacteriological examinations were made of (i) the raw water and (ii) where treatment is installed, of water going into supply ; if so
- (a) How many ? Yes (i) 20 ; (ii) 12
- (b) The results obtained. Number of coliform organisms per 100 mls. Nil
- (c) The results of any chemical analysis Satisfactory
- (iii) Where the waters are liable to have plumbo solvent action the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and number and result of analyses :—
Report of Analyst does not indicate plumbo solvent action in any of the testings made.
- (iv) Action in respect of any form of contamination :—
None. (But see remarks on previous page referring to Well Water).
- (v) Particulars of the number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains :—
- (a) Direct to the houses 6,378
- (b) By means of stand pipes 10

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Most of the sewers empty into one large intercepting sewer which passes under the Manchester Ship Canal at No Man's Land. Another sewer dips under the Ship Canal at the westerly boundary of the District and is discharged similarly into the Mersey estuary.

There were no extensions of sewers during the year under review. (See remarks in Introduction under "Disposal of Sewage.")

2. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—With the exception of 15 pail closets situated at points not within reasonable reach of a sewer, all houses are on the water carriage system.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. The collection of house refuse is carried out by the Local Authority over the whole district on a weekly basis, and disposal is by tipping, *which should be "controlled"*.

The collection of salvage material has developed considerably during the year and should continue for some time as a national necessity.

(iii) **Sanitary Inspection of the Area**

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, or Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926 :—

Inspections made for all purposes	....	4,396
Nuisances dealt with	....	649
Notices served (Informal, <i>re</i> 233 houses)		194

Summary of Visits and Inspections

<i>Description</i>				
Bakehouses	....	....	....	40
Canal Boats	....	....	....	226
Common Lodging House	....	....	....	10
Complaints	....	....	....	359
Cowsheds	....	....	....	14
Dairies and Milkshops	....	....	....	60
Disinfections	....	....	....	115
Factories	....	....	....	34
Food Shops	....	....	....	92
Houses inspected	....	....	....	454
Houses disinfected for vermin	....	....	....	18
Ice-Cream Premises	....	....	....	16
Infectious Diseases	....	....	....	115
Licensed Music Halls	....	....	....	10
Manure Receptacles	....	....	....	20
Middens and Earth Closets	....	....	....	10
Miscellaneous	....	....	....	756
Nuisance Abatement	....	....	....	880
Offensive Trades	....	....	....	17
Overcrowding	....	....	....	105
Owners and Agents Interviewed	....	....	....	200
Piggeries	....	....	....	14
Public Conveniences	....	....	....	49
Rats and Mice Destruction	....	....	....	17
Schools' Conveniences	....	....	....	42
Slaughterhouse	....	....	....	503
Smoke Abatement	....	....	....	6
Vans, Tents, etc.	....	....	....	46
Water Closets and Drains	....	....	....	109
Water Samples (Domestic)	....	....	....	32
Water Samples (Baths)	....	....	....	27
TOTAL	....	....	....	4396

(iv) **Shops**

During the year 92 inspections of shops were made and apart from a few minor contraventions, were found to be in a satisfactory condition in relation to ventilation, temperature and sanitary accommodation. Generally speaking the shops were found to be well kept.

The provisions of the Employment of Young Persons Act and the Shops (Closing Hours) Act, were observed fairly generally. It was not found necessary to take legal action under the Shops Acts.

(v) **Smoke Abatement**

During the year observations have been made for the purpose of smoke abatement, and representations were made to certain undertakings with a view of preventing air pollution. With a return to normal conditions it is anticipated that great improvements will be effected. No legal action was taken.

The Council remains a constituent Authority with the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, and makes a contribution to its fund for providing special Smoke Inspectors.

Action by the appropriate Government Departments in supplying only the proper means of burning good coal, etc., in the house, factory, etc., would go a long way in reducing this nuisance.

(vi) **Swimming Baths**

The Urban District Council maintains a Swimming Bath which is supplied with water partly from a spring and partly from the town's mains which is passed through a filtration plant charged with chlorine. It is tested for its purity and chlorine content at least once a month during the season, and its physical characteristics are satisfactory.

Twenty-seven samples of Bath's water were tested, and the Analyst reported on the fluctuations of the composition of the water at various times, *e.g.*, when the load was heavier and the temperature consequently higher. Attention was immediately given to any adverse report and the process of chlorination adjusted as required.

Certain standard improvements are required structurally when labour and material are available.

(vii) **Eradication of Bed Bugs**

The following particulars are given of action taken for the eradication of bed bugs :—

	<i>Infested</i>	<i>Disinfested</i>
1. (a) Number of Council houses	2	2
(b) Number of other houses	10	10
2. The methods employed for freeing infested houses include application of strong vermicides and fumigants of high potency :		
(1) Vermicine.		(2) Zaldecide.
(3) Slatford Insecticide made by British Fumigants, Ltd.		
(4) Gammexane.		(5) D.D.T.

4.—Schools

During the year 42 inspections of public elementary schools have been made ; the sanitary accommodation was found to be satisfactory in general, and the water supply is good and adequate ; certain maintenance repairs were asked for and carried out.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

<i>Premises (1)</i>	<i>M/c line No. (2)</i>	<i>Number on Register (3)</i>	<i>Number of</i>			<i>M/c line No. (7)</i>
			<i>Inspections (4)</i>	<i>Written Notices (5)</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted (6)</i>	
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	44	40	—	—	1
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies :						
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938*	2	50	34	2	—	2
(b) Others	3	—	—	—	—	3
(3) Other Premises under the Act† (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	—	—	—	—	4
TOTAL	—	94	74	2	—	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2) (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	7	7	-	1	-	5
Overcrowding (S.2)	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	7	-	-	-	-	-	7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	8	-	-	-	-	-	8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9	-	-	-	-	-	9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :							
(a) insufficient	10	1	1	-	1	-	10
(b) unsuitable or defective	11	1	1	-	1	-	11
(c) not separate for sexes	12	1	1	-	1	-	12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	13	-	-	-	-	-	13
TOTAL	60	10	10	-	4	nil	60

Number of Outworkers Lists : 1 Contractor ; 3 Outworkers.

SECTION D

Housing

Number of inhabited houses in Urban District, 31st December, 1946	....	....	....	....	6,388
Density of houses (number of houses per acre)	....				2.2
Number of new houses erected during 1946 :					
By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	22 (prefabs)
By other bodies or persons	....	....	....	....	13
Number of houses owned by Local Authority	....				324
I—Inspection of dwelling-houses during 1946 :—					
1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	....			454
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	....	....	731

4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	....	....	....	....	73
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	....				71
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	....				471
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	....	....	....	....	6
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	....	....	....	....	10
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases					43
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	....				One illegally overcrowded action pending.

REPORT OF CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR

During the year, 226 registered boats were inspected, and generally speaking, having regard to the Regulations controlling the use of such boats as dwellings, they were found in a fairly good condition.

Nevertheless, in my opinion, there is need for a revision of the Canal Boat Regulations, for although the life of Canal Boat Dwellers is an open one, the need for a greater air space per head in narrow boats is essential.

Improvement, too, in sanitary practice is long overdue ; and a more adequate supply of drinking water should be provided for ; also the provision of bathing facilities at appropriate points where boats are moored during the loading and unloading of cargoes. In my last report the urgency of bathing facilities was stressed.

It seems also that the education of children on Canal Boats should be given consideration. Owing to the constant moving about from place to place there can be no continuity in their education—such fragmentary teaching provides children with a handicap in life. In my opinion a system should be evolved which makes it convenient for children of school age not to take constant trips with the Canal Boat, but to remain behind for educational purposes.

The number of children in their respective age group is given below.

The 226 boats inspected were occupied by : Men 287, Women 89, Children 77.

AGE GROUP OF CHILDREN :

Under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	years
3	9	7	4	10	18	4	1	9	1	3	1	7	TOTAL 77.

Eight boats were found to be defective, and the nature of the contraventions of the Canal Boat Regulations and Public Health Acts dealt with are given below :—

Overcrowding of cabins	....	....	....	1
Painting of cabins	....	....	....	6
No Certificate on board	....	....	....	3
Leaking tops and sides of cabins	....	....	....	8
Defective bunks	....	....	....	2
Defective stoves	....	....	....	2
Defective scuttle	....	....	....	1
				—
				23
				—

There have been no cancellations during the year nor any new registrations of a Canal Boat and the number now on our register is 545.

No case of infectious disease was notified during the year 1946 on board a Canal Boat.

NOTE BY M.O.H.—*Previously, reports have been forwarded recommending arrangements for a better scheme, for, e.g., visits to Welfare Centres, etc., Visits by Health Visitors, etc.*

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) (i) Milk Supply

There are eight cow-keepers on our register, three of whom produce "Accredited" milk under licence from the Cheshire County Council.

During the year fourteen visits were made to cowsheds, and sixty visits to dairies.

There are seventy-six retailers of milk on our register ; sixty for milk in bottles, and sixteen for loose milk.

There is one dairy in the district approved by the Ministry of Food for heat treatment of milk on the "Holder System" of Pasteurisation.

From this Plant twenty-four samples of milk were submitted during the year for laboratory examination : only two samples were found to be not in all respect satisfactory.

Thirty-six samples of milk delivered to Schools in the area were obtained for analytical purposes ; nine of these were found to be unsatisfactory. Consequent investigations both at the Schools and Dairies led to the discovery of a fault in the Pasteurising process which was remedied, and all testings of milk have since been satisfactory (see below).

In addition, to the above, fourteen testings of milk were made from other sources of supply, six of which were not satisfactory. Inspections made at the premises where the milk was produced have resulted in improved conditions both on the premises and in the milk supply.

(ii) Milk Testing

74 samples of milk were submitted for examination :—

	<i>Report</i>		
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Not Satisfactory</i>
(1) Raw ordinary milk	9	3	6
(2) Accredited milk	2	2	—
(3) Pasteurised milk	63	52	11 (see above)
TOTAL	74	57	17

(b) Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-46

Licences have been granted as follows :—

Accredited Milk	....	....	....	Retailers licence	....	4
Pasteurised Milk	....	....	....	Producers licence	....	1
do.	....	....	....	Retailers licence	....	1
do.	....	....	....	Supplementary licence	....	1
Tuberculin Tested Milk	....	....	....	Retailers licence	....	1

Food and Drugs Act, 1936**Meat and Other Foods****(1) (a) PREPARATION OF FOOD.**

During the year 78 visits were made to premises where food is prepared and, speaking generally, the conditions found were satisfactory.

(b) UNSOUND FOOD

Under the “Unsound Food Provisions”, the under-mentioned articles of food were found to be unfit for consumption, and condemned :—

Beans (tinned)	....	13 tins	Meat (tinned)	....	61 lbs.
Butter	....	114 lbs.	Mutton and Beef		
Cheese	....	15 lbs.	(corned)	....	1553 lbs.
Fat (cooking)	....	112 lbs.	Mutton (fresh)	....	104 lbs.
Fruit (dried)	....	132 lbs.	Milk (tinned)	....	178 tins
Fruit (tinned)	....	28 lbs.	Oranges (Brazilian)		1 case
Fish (tinned)	....	31 tins	Preserves....	....	12 lbs.
Lard	....	56 lbs.	Peas	....	12 tins
Lentils	....	96 lbs.	Soup	....	19 tins
			Margarine	....	168 lbs.

(2) Abattoir :

(a) The public abattoir has continued to be used by the Ministry of Food as a slaughtering and distribution centre for the Urban and Rural Districts of Runcorn.

Considering the age of the building and the lack of modern facilities so essential to the keeping qualities of meat, *e.g.*, refrigeration and space, and the need for lairages concealed from the slaughtering room, one anticipates the time when a modern structure will become a possibility.

NOTE BY M.O.H.—*I strongly endorse this recommendation : see my remarks on this subject in the Introduction. After visits to other Abattoirs I most strongly condemn any slaughter of animals without suitable stunning.*

(b) Slaughtering of Animals Act

The provisions set out in this Act were observed and there were no contraventions thereof,

(c) Meat Regulations

The meat regulations are constantly kept before the personnel responsible for the transport of meat, and at the abattoir, and in the area of the Urban District the regulations are fairly well adhered to.

NOTE BY M.O.H.—*The conditions prevailing should be improved on when suitable vehicles, etc., are available.*

(3) Meat Inspection

The inspection of meat is given the utmost attention by qualified Inspectors.

During the year under review, the class of meat dealt with was of a variable quality, demanding diligent attention at all stages of preparation by at least one Inspector for whom it provided full-time work.

NOTE BY M.O.H.—*The Senior Sanitary Inspector has had a most anxious time in his duties here, which he has carried out conscientiously and to the best of his ability. It is hoped that at an early date the quality of animals sent for slaughter will be greatly improved.*

The number of animals slaughtered was 16,072 and are classified in the table below, and for the purpose of inspection 503 visits were made.

TABLE OF ANIMALS KILLED AND INSPECTED

Bulls	....	....	100	Cow heifers	....	....	214
Bullocks	....	....	621	Calves	....	....	1962
Cows	....	....	1119	Sheep and lambs	....	....	11410
Heifers	....	....	597	Pigs	....	....	49

TOTAL : 16,072

(e) Emergency Slaughterings 126

(f) Slaughterings under Tuberculosis Order, 1938 13

(4) Meat Condemned

The amount of meat and edible offals condemned was :—

For Tuberculosis	....	....	....	15 tons 19 cwts. 1 qr.
For other causes	....	....	....	11 tons 5 cwts. 1 qr.

TOTAL : 27 tons 4 cwts. 2 qrs,

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	<i>Bulls, Bullocks and Heifers</i>	<i>Cows and Cow Heifers</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	1318	1333	1962	11410	49
Number inspected	1318	1333	1962	11410	49
All Diseases except Tuberculosis : Whole carcases condemned	1	9	10	5	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	558	533	1	407	5
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	42.41 %	40.66 %	.56 %	3.6 %	12.24 %
Tuberculosis only : Whole carcases condemned	4	27	nil	nil	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	116	462	nil	nil	4
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.1 %	36.76 %	nil	nil	10.2 %

A. DALE, Senior Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector.

Adulteration, etc.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADULTERATION ACT

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Urban District under the Foods and Drugs Act during the year 1946,

Samples obtained during the year ended 31st December, 1946.

<i>Name of Sample</i>					<i>No. obtained</i>	<i>No. adulterated</i>
Baking Powder	....	....	....	....	1	—
Brandy	....	....	....	....	1	—
Butter	....	....	....	....	2	—
Camphorated Oil	....	....	....	....	1	—
Cheese	....	....	....	....	2	—
Coffee	....	....	....	....	1	—
Cocoa	....	....	....	....	1	—
Cod Liver Oil	....	....	....	....	1	—
Cooking Fat....	....	....	....	....	2	—
Fish Paste	....	....	....	....	1	—
Ginger, Ground	....	....	....	....	1	—
Jam	....	....	....	....	1	—
Margarine	....	....	....	....	2	—
Milk	....	....	....	....	39	2
Oil of Wintergreen	....	....	....	....	1	—
Parrishs Chemical Food	....	....	....	....	1	—
Pepper, Black	....	....	....	....	1	—
Quinine, Ammon. Tinc. of	....	....	....	....	1	—
Rum	....	....	....	....	1	—
Sauce	....	....	....	....	1	—
Sage and Onion Stuffing	....	....	....	....	1	—
Scone Flour Mixture	....	....	....	....	1	—
Semolina	....	....	....	....	1	—
Soup Powder	....	....	....	....	1	—
Sulphur Ointment	....	....	....	....	1	—
Whiskey	....	....	....	....	1	1
					68	3

It will be noticed that 2 samples of Milk and 1 sample of Whiskey failed to reach the legal standard. In each case the necessary action was taken.

Shell-fish (Molluscan)

There are no shell-fish beds in the area. Shell-fish are on sale regularly in the District. If shell-fish, mussels or shrimps are eaten locally, they must be *well* cooked and should come from Government-controlled beds.

Watercress

Only that grown on properly controlled beds (with a pure water supply) should be supplied, otherwise there is a danger of intestinal disease spreading.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to scarlet fever—assisted by Veterinary and Sanitary Officers—when further research reveals more about the virus causing, *e.g.*, measles and whooping cough, sound curative sera could be made when these diseases could be controlled and eventually wiped out.

Further research is required into the “carrier” state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these, but preventive measures, *e.g.*, diphtheria immunisation, smallpox vaccination, inoculation against typhoid fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years where these diseases are likely to occur, or are prevalent; in addition proper hygiene and sanitation are an essential.

Diphtheria Immunisation

My Council’s free scheme is still available so that parents and guardians can have their children properly immunised against the deadly disease diphtheria.

All children one to fifteen years of age, *preferably* between the *sixth and ninth month*, should be properly immunised against Diphtheria by two injections; in addition, a “booster” dose (one) is required in five years’ time. This can be obtained *free of cost* through the Parents’ or Guardians’ own Doctor in the Surgery or at home; also at Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries. Special clinics are organised at Schools as required. Application should be made at the Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, Schools or to the Public Health Department.

Propaganda on the above has been continuously carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, but still some children are found on admission to hospital to have not been immunised, and some have suffered from very serious complications as a result. Parents or guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once :—“*Prevention is better than Cure.*”

The following figures speak for themselves :—

RUNCORN URBAN DISTRICT—

Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1939	....	157
Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1946	....	3
Percentage of children immunised in 1939	....	50%
Percentage of children immunised in 1946	....	88%

RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT—

Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1939	....	29
Number of cases of Diphtheria in 1946	....	3
Percentage of children immunised in 1939	....	58 %
Percentage of children immunised in 1945	....	84 %

Immunisation

It will be noted that through my Council's FREE SCHEME the percentage of children immunised is now 88 % ; it is recommended that when staff are available immunisation be carried out in the future in Welfare Centres and Schools by their respective Medical Services under control of the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire ; in addition to the free immunisation through local Doctors (at the surgery or at home).

Formalin Treatment

Formalin treatment for diphtheria carriers, including first contacts, instituted by me in 1938, is still being carried out successfully. An article by me on this subject was printed in the British Medical Journal during the year 1945.

Care of the Blind

The Welfare of Blind Persons is dealt with by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, under the appropriate Act, working in conjunction with the Blind Welfare Societies.

Mental Deficiency and Special Schools for Defective Children

This is dealt with as required by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and the appropriate Departments, etc.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Cases of this disease are notified immediately to the County and local Medical Officer of Health and arrangements are made by the former for specialist and/or hospital treatment as required.

Cancer (Cancer Act, 1939)

An amended extract from the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, Annual Report on this matter which reads as follows :—

For the treatment of Cancer generally, patients who consult their own doctors and can afford the cost of treatment (or get recommends—British Empire Cancer Campaign) go to the larger hospitals offering facilities in Liverpool, Manchester, Stockport, Birkenhead, Chester and Warrington.

For those who appeal to the local authority for treatment the following arrangements are in force :—

- (1) Provided by the Local Authority, Clatterbridge County Hospital.

Here radium and operative treatment are carried out but there are no facilities at present for deep X-ray Therapy. Cases requiring such treatment are referred to the Radium Institute, Liverpool, from the hospital. It is intended that when the extensions to Clatterbridge Hospital are completed such treatment will be available there.

- (2) By arrangement with other hospitals—(Public Assistance Committee).

(a) Manchester Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute.

(b) Chester Royal Infirmary.

Arrangements are in force for Radium, Operative treatment and Deep X-ray Therapy at both the above hospitals.

NOTE.—Early diagnosis and treatment is *most important* in this disease.

Prevention of Disease from Abroad.

The Government under the appropriate Acts have a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this country from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious disease has occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill, and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival, and he arranges for the necessary supervision. With the outbreaks of the serious type of smallpox abroad, it is again strongly recommended that all infants and others should be properly vaccinated according to the law on the subject ; this can be carried out free of charge through the local Vaccination Medical Officer.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1946

The following table includes particulars of the incidence of notifiable diseases in the area during the year 1946 :—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	29	25	—
Whooping Cough	22	—	—
Diphtheria	21	21*	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Measles	148	1†	—
Pneumonia	25	—	16
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	3	3	—
TOTAL	252	51	16

N.B.—†Complications—Abscess right shoulder.

*3 Diagnosed Diphtheria—16 Tonsillitis (various), 2 *e.g.*, Acute Follicular Tonsillitis and Diphtheria (see figures).

*An analysis of the total notified cases under the following age-groups are given below :—

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases at all ages</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1 to 2</i>	<i>2 to 3</i>	<i>3 to 4</i>	<i>4 to 5</i>	<i>5 to 10</i>	<i>10 to 15</i>	<i>15 to 20</i>	<i>20 to 35</i>	<i>35 to 45</i>	<i>45 to 65</i>	<i>65 to over</i>
Scarlet Fever	29	—	—	6	—	—	13	7	—	2	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	22	1	3	5	4	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Measles	148	10	13	18	25	20	59	3	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	25	—	1	—	2	—	2	1	2	2	5	7	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

Diphtheria antitoxin is provided free to Medical Practitioners and can be obtained at any time from the local laboratories of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies, Limited, or in great emergency from Dutton Isolation Hospital. *In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in diphtheria.*

Antitoxin should be given in all suspicious cases at once in the home or in hospital. Swabbing is only an aid to diagnosis.

Swabs from suspected cases of diphtheria are examined at Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies, Limited, Laboratory.

Swabs examined during 1946 : 122 (Positive 5, Negative 117).

Classified Table of Cancer Deaths

Site	Age								Total
	0-30		30-50		50-70		70 and over		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Breast	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Colon	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	4
Genital Organs	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
Face	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kidney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liver	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Lungs	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	1	6
Lymph Glands	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2
Pancreas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rectum	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	3
Remainder of Intestinal Tract	-	-	1	1	2	2	1	-	7
Stomach	-	-	-	-	6	2	3	1	12
Heart	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Throat and Mouth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tongue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Male Deaths	-	-	1	-	16	-	8	-	Total
Female Deaths	-	-	-	1	-	10	-	3	39

Runcorn Urban District
TOTAL DEATHS, 1945

Causes of Death				Males	Females
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	....	....	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	....	....	-	-
3.	Scarlet Fever	....	....	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough	....	....	-	-
5.	Diphtheria	....	....	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis, Respiratory System	....	....	4	4

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	....	....	....	—	—
8.	Syphilitic diseases	....	....	....	1	1
9.	Influenza	....	....	....	5	1
10.	Measles	....	....	....	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-encephalitis	....	....	....	—	—
12.	Acute Infantile Encephalitis	....	....	....	—	—
13.	Cancer of b. cav. and Oesoph. (M), Uterus (F)	....	....	....	2	3
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	....	....	....	9	3
15.	Cancer of breast	....	....	....	—	1
16.	Cancer of all other parts	....	....	....	15	6
17.	Diabetes	....	....	....	1	4
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	....	....	....	10	19
19.	Heart disease	....	....	....	53	43
20.	Other disease of circ. system	....	....	....	8	3
21.	Bronchitis	....	....	....	19	4
22.	Pneumonia	....	....	....	10	6
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	....	....	....	1	—
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	....	....	....	2	—
25.	Diarrhœa, under 2 years	....	....	....	6	2
26.	Appendicitis	....	....	....	—	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	....	....	....	4	2
28.	Nephritis	....	....	....	6	5
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion. Sepsis	....	....	....	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	....	....	....	—	1
31.	Premature Birth	....	....	....	1	2
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injuries, Infant Disease	....	....	....	3	—
33.	Suicide	....	....	....	—	2
34.	Road traffic accidents	....	....	....	—	—
35.	Other violent causes	....	....	....	6	4
36.	All other causes	....	....	....	11	10
(Registrar General's figures)						

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Total	....	....	....	12	8
	Legitimate	....	....	....	11	7
	Illegitimate	....	....	....	1	1
LIVE BIRTHS	Total	....	....	....	227	252
	Legitimate	....	....	....	217	245
	Illegitimate	....	....	....	10	7
STILLBIRTHS	Total	....	....	....	11	8
	Legitimate	....	....	....	11	8
	Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—

POPULATION Estimated 22,940
Comparability Factor (not available for 1946).

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1946

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns. (Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.)

	<i>Runcorn Urban District</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>	<i>126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London</i>	<i>148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)</i>	<i>London Adminis- trative County</i>
	<i>Rates per 1,000 Population</i>				
BIRTHS—					
Live Births (479)	20.88	19.1 *	22.2	21.3	21.5
Still Births (19)	0.82	0.53*	0.67	0.59	0.54
DEATHS—					
All causes (304)	13.25	11.5*	12.7	11.7	12.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza (6)	0.26	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
	<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>				
Deaths under 1 year of age (20)	41.75	43†	46	37	41
Deaths from Diarrhœa and Enteritis under 2 years of age (8)	16.7	4.4	6.1	2.8	4.2

(See REMARKS BELOW)§

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

†Per 1,000 related births.

*Rates per 1,000 total population.

§DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS IN INFANTS

In this connection a letter was sent to the local Secretaries of the B.M.A. for the information of all Doctors, drawing attention to a Spécial Article on "ENTERITIS IN INFANTS" which appeared in the "Lancet"; special stress was made on the *proper* cleansing and sterilisation of babies' feeding bottles and teats; *in breast fed babies there* was only a very small incidence of this disease. In addition, the examination of fæces, etc., was recommended at a Laboratory as required for bacteriological or chemical causes.

The Ministry of Health are again investigating this serious disease in Infants—much research is being carried out, which, it is hoped, will benefit all concerned in the future.

	<i>Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population</i>				
NOTIFICATIONS (Final Diagnosis) :					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever (3)	0.13	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06
Scarlet Fever (29)	1.26	1.38	1.51	1.33	1.42
*Whooping Cough (22)	0.95	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22
Diphtheria (3)	0.13	0.20	0.32	0.31	0.24
Erysipelas (3)	0.13	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
*Measles (148)....	6.45	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35
†Pneumonia (25)	1.04	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still) :

(a) Notifications—

Puerperal Fever(1)....	....	{	2.0	8.50	10.35	7.63	1.62
Puerperal Pyrexia ....	....	{					9.68†

(b) Maternal Mortality (England and Wales) :

No. 140	No. 141	No. 147	Nos. 142-6	148-150
Abortion with Sepsis	Abortion without Sepsis	Puerperal Infections	Other	
0.13	0.06	0.18	1.06	

Abortion : Mortality per million women aged 15-45 in England and Wales :—

No. 140 with Sepsis
11

No. 141 without Sepsis
5

†Including Puerperal Fever.

N.B.—Special remarks by Dr. E. N. Hillman Gray, Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts :—

†“With the increased and early use of Penicillin with ordinary precautions it is hoped this figure will fall in the future. All cases of Pneumonia are specially investigated and action is taken to prevent further cases wherever possible.”

*“It is hoped when the new Ministry of Health anti-measles and -whooping cough serum is available, that this disease will occur very rarely.”

“A Special Form has been issued by me, which contains precautions recommended in the nursing of measles, whooping cough, influenza and pneumonia at home ; copies have been sent to all Doctors and District Nurses in my Districts for distribution as required.”

TUBERCULOSIS

No person employed in the milk trade was found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary compulsorily to remove to hospital any person suffering from Tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, the following precautions should be specially noted :

Proper food (see remarks in Introduction), in addition, early diagnosis (X-ray, etc.), proper treatment, thorough disinfection of homes when cases go to Sanatorium, separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector. All new cases are specially investigated by me and reported to the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and as required to H.M. Inspector of Factories.

In my opinion, all milk, especially for children, should be properly “pasteurised”.

With proper veterinary control of cattle ; proper housing conditions and food for the people, these, with heat treatment (e.g., Pasteurisation of Milk), will help to stamp out this terrible disease. Proper heat treatment of milk not only kills the Tubercle Bacillus but other germs causing disease.

Particulars of the 13 new cases of Tuberculosis and of the 11 deaths from the disease in the area during 1946 :—

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15-24	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
25-34	1	3	—	—	—	2	—	—
35-44	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
45-54	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
55-64	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	6	5	—	2	6	5	—	—

All of the 11 deaths were notified cases.

Specimens of sputum from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients are examined at the Cheshire County Council's Laboratory.

During the year 1946 the following sputums were dealt with :—

Total No. of Sputums 65
(Negative 59, Positive 6)

Tuberculosis Cases on Register—Comparative Rates :—

Year	Estimated Population	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Total all Forms	No. per 1,000 of Population
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
1941	22,830	37	29	40	88	154	6.7
1942	22,730	49	35	41	92	176	7.7
1943	22,450	50	35	50	45	180	8.01
1944	21,840	53	35	50	49	187	8.5
1945	21,690	56	40	50	50	196	9.03
1946	22,940	58	38	41	45	182	7.9

The Ministry of Health are carrying out intensive research in the use of Streptomycin in the treatment of Tuberculosis, especially for T.B. Meningitis.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT

Considering the conditions created by the aftermath of war, the general health of the community has been satisfactory. When the various matters mentioned in this Report are put into effect health (mental and physical) should greatly improve, provided all concerned co-operate. Improved housing conditions, food and further health education are urgently required. The final part of my lecture on "Health and the Joy of Life" may well be quoted here :—

"Be clean, eat the proper food daily—properly cooked. Finally, work hard, play hard—and learn to relax : one then will have gained SOMETHING towards 'Health and the Joy of Life'."

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

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Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts.

Medical Superintendent, Isolation Hospital, Dutton.

